IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Each product includes a monomer unit with the following formula:

$$-ORS_nR^1OA- \text{ or } -OAOR^1S_nR-$$

wherein:

O and S have their normal meaning of oxygen and sulfur;

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Where the composition is formed from the reactants in a mole ratio of its reactants of between about 1:1 and up to and including 2:1 or even greater, and has molecular weight below about 5000 dal, it is referred to as "extended monomer;" the extended monomer will have one of the following formulae:

(a) $MF_m ORS_nR^1OM^1$; or

(b) $MZAORS_nR^1F^l_m OAZ^1M^1$,

wherein:

O and S have their normal meaning of oxygen and sulfur;

n is at least 2 and not more than about 8, usually in the range of about 2 to 4, more usually in the range of 2 to 3;

F is of the formula $-ORS_nR^1OA-$;

F^1 is of the formula $-OAORS_nR^1-$;

m is at least 1;

Z and Z^1 are oxy or amino;

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The high molecular weight poly(thioesters) have the formula:

$$Xf_m OX^1$$

wherein:

f is the group $-ORS_nR^1OA-$;

X is H or HOA-;

X^1 is H or $-RS_nR^1OH$;